

In the claims:

Please cancel original claims 2-3 and 5-26 without prejudice to applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please amend claims 1 and 4 under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b) by deleting the bracketed word or words and inserting the underlined word or words as follows:

--1. (Amended) An antibody which specifically binds to human luteinizing hormone beta core fragment, (hLH β cf) without cross-reacting with human luteinizing hormone (hLH), human luteinizing hormone free beta subunit (hLH β) or human chorionic gonadotropin beta core fragment (hCG β cf).--

--4. (Amended) An anti-hLH β cf antibody which competitively inhibits the binding of the antibody of claim 1.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove canceled claims 2-3 and 5-26 without prejudice.

Applicants have hereinabove amended claims 1 and 4. Applicants maintain that support for the amended claim 1 may be found inter alia on page 24, Table 2, wherein the affinity to hLH β cf and cross-reactivity with hLH, hLH β or hCG β cf of several antibodies are summarized. Applicants maintain that support for the amended claim 4 may be found inter alia on page ..., lines 28-34 to page 2c, lines 1-15, wherein a summary of simultaneous interactions of two antibodies with hLH β cf indicates a competition for the same antigen at the same site exists. Applicants maintain that the amendments to the claims do not involve any issue of new matter and

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respectfully request entry of these amendments. Accordingly claims 1 and 4 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. If any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

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